

MEETING OF
THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy. Dover, Delaware, April 9, 2008, with the following members in attendance:

Robert F. Garey, Chairman	Michael Scuse, Secretary of Agriculture
William Vanderwende, Vice Chairman	Kevin Coyle (representing John Hughes, Secretary of DNREC)
Lyn Davenport, Secretary	Jack Markell, State Treasurer
Allen Messick, Jr.	

Absent: Joseph Wick, Theodore P. Bobola, Jr., and G. Ray Staats.

The following staff members were in attendance: Michael McGrath, Howard Mesick, Milton Melendez, Cathy Mesick, Scott Blaier, Austin Short, Michael Valenti, and Robin West.

Others in attendance: F. Michael Parkowski, Esq., the Hon. William Powers from New Castle County, and Mr. Phil Tuthill.

Chairman Garey opened the meeting with prayer at 8:30 a.m.

I. Progress Report:

Milton Melendez informed the Board that we have a total of 977 farms in preservation districts totaling 149,236 acres, with a total of 484 farms under agricultural easements totaling 85,040 acres at a cost of \$137,072,330. For PDR 13 there are a total of 114 farms comprising 11,575 acres with a value of \$65,311,852 to be considered for purchase of development rights. For PDR 14 there are a total of 51 farms comprising 4,330 acres with a value of \$61,814,052. For the Forestland Preservation Program there are 28 farms comprising 2,265 acres. For PDR 1 for Forestland Preservation Areas there is a total of 24 Areas, comprising 2,131 acres.

II. District Final Approval:

1. Nesneb District, ID#K-07-11-249. After discussion, **Allen Messick, Jr. moved to accept for final approval the Nesneb District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

III. Forestland Preservation Area Eligibility & Final Approval:

1. Lee Forestland Preservation Area #1, ID#F-S-08-01-193D-027. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Lee Forestland Preservation Area #1, seconded by Lyn Davenport. Motion unanimously approved.**
2. Lee Forestland Preservation Area #2, ID#F-S-08-01-193E-028. After discussion **Jack Markell moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Lee Forestland Preservation Area #2, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**
3. Lee Forestland Preservation Area #3, ID#F-S-08-01-193F-029. After discussion, **Jack Markell moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Lee Forestland Preservation Area #3, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

IV. Expansion eligibility & Final Approval:

1. C & T Mitchell Expansion of the Howard W. Pepper District, ID#S-07-10-104A. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the C & T Mitchell Expansion of the Howard W. Pepper District, seconded by Jack Markell. Motion unanimously approved.**
2. Lee Expansion #1 of the W.G. Passwaters #2 District, ID#S-08-01-193D. After discussion, **Allen Messick, Jr. moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Lee Expansion #1 of the W.G. Passwaters #2 District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

3. Lee Expansion #2 of the W. G. Passwaters #2 District, ID#S-08-01-193E. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Lee Expansion #2 of the W. G. Passwaters #2 District, seconded by Lyn Davenport. Motion unanimously approved.**
4. Lee Expansion #2 of the W. G. Passwaters #2 District, ID#S-08-01-193F. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Lee Expansion #3 of the W. G. Passwaters #2 District, seconded by Allen Messick, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

Secretary Scuse waived his right of veto for the above expansions, district, and forestland preservation areas.

V. Public Comments – No public comments were received.

VI. Minutes:

1. Chairman Garey asked if there were additions or corrections to the January 9, 2008 minutes. Receiving no additions or corrections to the minutes, **William Vanderwende moved the minutes be approved, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.** (Because there was not a quorum at the time the January minutes were considered at the February meeting it was necessary that the vote be taken at another meeting of the Foundation.)

2. Chairman Garey asked if there were additions or corrections to the March 12, 2008 minutes. Receiving no additions or corrections to the minutes, **Allen Messick, Jr. moved the minutes be approved, seconded by Lyn Davenport. Motion unanimously approved.**

VII. Financial Highlights:

1. Vote on the January Financial Report from the February meeting (necessary because we did not have a quorum when this report was discussed.) After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept the January Financial Report which was presented at the February meeting, seconded by Jack Markell. Motion unanimously approved.**

2. Cathy Mesick informed the Foundation Board that we had, as of March 31, 2008, \$8,197.01 in the Foundation's checking account. The Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account had a balance of \$155,619.15. We received \$359.36 revenue from rollback taxes and \$697.39 interest income. Expenditures for the month of March totaled \$8,344.18. After discussion, the Financial Report was approved by **Lyn Davenport, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

3. Michael McGrath gave the Board an overview of the problems with State finances and our reply to a request from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, J. J. Davis, concerning our Foundation funding for Fiscal Year 2009.

Bookkeeper Howard Mesick and Michael McGrath presented the changes proposed in the Foundation budget for fiscal year 2008. The Board reviewed the memorandum which requested adding \$50,000 to fund the administrative costs of the Forestland Preservation program. This addition to the budget is being done because we are funding these costs, and it is necessary to keep track of the expenditures separately from the Farmland Preservation program.

Jack Markell wanted to know where the money was coming from, and it was explained that this funding is coming from our cash reserves. A request has been made to J.J. Davis to allow \$50,000 out of the \$1M earmarked for the Forestland Preservation program to be used for administrative costs. Jack Markell noted that we need to have this settled by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. After discussion, it was **moved by Jack Markell to approve this change in the budget as a one time measure only, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

4. Michael McGrath presented the new Foundation budget for fiscal year 2009. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept the fiscal year 2009 budget as presented, seconded by William Vanderwende. Motion unanimously approved.**

VIII. Executive Session – There was no need for an Executive Session.

IX. Other Business:

1. Forestland Area Valuation Comparison:

Milton Melendez presented a spreadsheet requested by the Board which shows the forestland area valuation comparison. It was noted that the value of forestland goes up from the older valuation, but this makes the easement value of forestland go down when compared with the older valuation method. The new valuation is necessary as both the Forestland Preservation program and the Farmland Preservation program must use the same values for forestland. The Honorable William Powers asked about the soils types. Austin Short stated that the new soil types are just coming out this year and he believes these types are much better than the 1973-1974 types provided by the soil survey. In September the entire new soil survey should be out. After further discussion, the Board consensus was that we should move ahead with the new valuation system.

2. New Treasurer for the Foundation:

Some discussion ensued concerning the appointment of a new treasurer for the Foundation. Mr. Allen Messick, Jr. was asked if he would be willing to be an officer, and he said that he would accept if the vote was favorable. After consideration, **William Vanderwende moved to appoint Allen Messick, Jr. as Treasurer, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

3. Reminder about the Bond Bill hearing on April 30th at 10:00 a.m. at Legislative Hall Mr. McGrath informed the Board that we might be getting another \$1M from the Federal government under FRPP. New Castle County will be voting on the amount of funding they will be providing as well.

X. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on May 14, 2008 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Davenport
Secretary